



## *Detroit Gets Disaster Relief!*

At an August 7th Press Conference attended by Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan and U.S. Senators, Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow, U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro announced the City of Detroit was being allocated \$8.9 million in disaster relief funds to be used in preparation for future flooding.

In August 2014, Detroit was hit by a massive storm that flooded or damaged more than 60,000 homes. In addition, numerous Southeastern Michigan communities were impacted by sewer overflow coming from Detroit's water system. Nearly 80 percent was untreated threatening the overall health of the Great Lakes Water System as well as Detroit's water supply.

With the receipt of these funds, Detroit will have an opportunity to improve the Brightmoor, Mount Elliott and McDougall-Hunt neighborhoods with new sources of green energy projects. For example, grassy areas will be replaced with trees and other types of greenery that absorb water allowing water runoff from future storms to flow into them.

Below are other projects the federal funding will be used for:

- Brightmoor—A variety of project types are envisioned for this area, including green streets public facility improvements and urban agriculture;
- Mount Elliot—renewable power project will help complete pre-development work on a large scale solar panel array along a former railway on the near east side;
- McDougall-Hunt Green—infrastructure will provide storm water management by creating a multi-functional green and blue infrastructure space accessible to the public;
- Detroit will demolish vacant properties and undertake landscape installations in areas adjacent to the neighborhoods that experienced flooding or cause other areas to flood.

Source: H. Fournier, Detroit News

## *St. Clair Shores Senior Activity Center*

A much needed expansion and renovation to the City of St. Clair Shores Senior Center will soon begin with a recently approved \$1.76 million loan guarantee by the U.S. Dept. of HUD.

This loan program allows communities to transform part of their Community Development Block Grant

funds into federally-guaranteed loans and borrow money at reduced interest rates in order to pursue special projects.

Money will be used for interior repairs, including redesigning offices, a conference room, café and kitchen as well as infrastructure improvements.

A new 2,600 sq. ft. addition will include a fitness center and partially covered patio.

The center serves adults age 50 and older.

Pictured L-R.: Michael Polsinelli, Field Office Director for HUD's Detroit office, holds a ceremonial check with St. Clair Shores Mayor Kip Walby, HUD's Region 5 Administrator Antonio Riley, and City Manager Mike Smith during the HUD announcement at the St. Clair Shores Activity Center on Aug. 6. M. Huff, Macomb Daily

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Grand Rapids Montage by Rachel Kramer



Traverse City Cherries



Ludington Lighthouse



Mackinac Bridge

## *Flint Federal Executive Association Awards Ceremony*

On Tuesday, September 15, 2015, the Flint Federal Executive Association held its annual awards ceremony to honor exemplary federal employees. The keynote speaker was Congressman Dan Kildee, representing Michigan's 5th Congressional District. Congressman Kildee spoke on the importance and sacrifice of public service. This year Paul Joice received the public recognition award for HUD. Paul is an employee with PD& R in HUD Headquarters on loan to the Strong Cities, Strong Communities White House initiative. For the past year and half, Paul has been imbedded with the City of Flint, working closely with the City Administration and other federal agencies to bring about positive change and momentum in the City of Flint. Paul has been a tenacious, thoughtful and powerful ally in the fight to turn Flint into a prospering city again. Congratulations Paul!



Pictured above L—R :  
Congressman Dan Kildee, Paul Joice and  
Michael Polsinelli, Detroit HUD Field  
Office Director



### MICHIGAN MBK COMMUNITIES

- ⇒ Benton Harbor
- ⇒ Buena Vista
- ⇒ Detroit
- ⇒ Flint
- ⇒ Grand Blanc Twp.
- ⇒ Highland Park
- ⇒ Lansing
- ⇒ Redford Twp.
- ⇒ Sault Ste. Marie  
Tribe of Chippewa  
Indians
- ⇒ Southfield

## *Saginaw City Council Supports My Brother's Keeper Initiative*

During a recent meeting with Obama administration officials at the White House, visiting local students and educational leaders talked about the My Brother's Keeper (MBK) initiative, introduced by President Barack Obama in 2014 and how the City of Saginaw could get on board.

The MBK Initiative seeks to eliminate opportunity gaps facing boys and men of color by implementing strategies aimed at ensuring all can reach their full potential.

The student trip was part of Saginaw's Centric program, which focuses on academic achievement of male students in

grades 6-12.

Part of the process required formal support from the Saginaw City Council to allow the group spearheading the effort to apply for funding at the federal level. Such support was unanimously approved on Aug. 10 through a resolution.

## *Detroit Landlord & Property Management Resource Event*

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**Tuesday, October 13, 2015**

9:00 AM—11:30 AM

Hosted at Neighborhood  
Service Organization Bell Bldg.

This event is sponsored by the  
City of Detroit with Continental  
Breakfast provided.

Training will be provided to  
landlords and property managers  
covering housing choice voucher

programs and Housing Quality  
Standards Inspection processes.

In addition, attendees will have  
an opportunity to network, hear  
tenant and property manage-  
ment testimonies and receive  
resources for housing individuals  
experiencing homelessness.

MSHDA, HUD-Public Housing  
and the Detroit Housing  
Commission are a few of the  
agencies presenting.



**Register for the Event at:**  
[https://landlord.wufoo.com/forms/  
mjzewdv1792k8a/](https://landlord.wufoo.com/forms/mjzewdv1792k8a/)  
**OR contact Catherine Distelrath:**  
[DistelrathC@michigan.gov](mailto:DistelrathC@michigan.gov)  
313-456-2477

## *Swayze Court Apartments Groundbreaking Ceremony*



### **Pictured L—R**

Natasha Henderson, Flint City Administrator  
 Megan Hunter, Flint Director of Planning & Development  
 John Peterson, Michigan Corp. for Supportive Housing Associate Director  
 Sue Peters, Michigan LIISC Program Officer  
 Antonio Riley, HUD Midwest Regional Administrator  
 Essence Wilson, Communities First, Inc.  
 Glenn Wilson, President/CEO, Communities First, Inc.  
 Chris LaGrand, MSHDA Chief Housing Investment Officer

On August 7, Communities First, a local nonprofit, held a Groundbreaking Forum at the Swayze Court Apartments located in Flint.

The Keynote Speaker was HUD's Region V Regional Administrator, Antonio Riley. Other speakers included Community First President/CEO, Glenn Wilson; Corporation for Supportive Housing; Local Initiatives Support Corporation; and Michigan State Housing Development Authority. Approximately 50 persons were in attendance.

The original building was constructed in 1924 and was added to the National Historic Register last month. The new project underway will create a total of 36 affordable units at a cost of \$8.3 million. Twenty will be earmarked as supportive housing units.

Funding sources include low income housing tax credits, Federal Historic Preservation Tax credits and Community Development Block Grant dollars.

## ***HUD Resource Locator (HRL)***

### **NOW AVAILABLE!!**

Download and use HRL on your computer, tablet or smartphone. This tool is an innovative mobile app and website that will further expand and enhance traditional HUD customer service.

The HRL utilizes resource data from multiple programs across five program offices and two

federal agencies (HUD and USDA). The mobile app uses GIS technology to show where resources are located so those in need can discover resources and contact information in their communities.

This tool can also be leveraged during a disaster to find many housing resources needed quickly and easily.

The HUD Resource Locator also provides:

- ◇ Location & contact info for local HUD resources;
- ◇ The ability to filter resources, view & directly contact from your mobile phone or tablet;
- ◇ Share via Facebook, Twitter, and email; and more.

### ***FIND LINKS TO THE ACTUAL APPS AT:***

- ◆ ITUNES MARKETPLACE
- ◆ GOOGLE PLAY MARKETPLACE
- ◆ HUD WEBSITE:

[HTTP://  
RESOURCES.HUD.GOV/](http://resources.hud.gov/)

## ***Zero: 2016—Detroit Action Camp***

Michigan Continuum of Care organizations—Detroit, Flint, Ann Arbor, and Pontiac/Royal Oak/Oakland County have taken part in Action Camps which provide guidance in establishing clear cut goals that will get them to *Functional Zero*. This aggressive day and a half action camp is centered on keeping communities engaged and on target to get a workable system in place to end Veteran Homelessness by the December 31, 2015.

To help this along is a new tool through **Zillow** called Community Pillar. A Community Pillar is a property manager listed on the Zillow site who has agreed to modify their standard resident screening process in order to help applicants with potential rental barriers - low incomes, spotty credit scores, recent unemployment, and lack of references - to obtain housing. Communities can filter a local search to find property managers who have identified as a Community Pillar and

might be willing to rent to clients with subsidies looking for a rental unit.

Here is the website: [http://  
www.zillow.com/community-pillar/](http://www.zillow.com/community-pillar/)

Also, For more information about the Community Pillar program and how an interested property owner can sign up enter access the website at: [http://www.zillow.com/blog/  
pro/community-pillars-115854/](http://www.zillow.com/blog/pro/community-pillars-115854/)





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING  
AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT



Department of  
Opportunity

MICHIGAN FIELD OFFICE  
MICHAEL POLSINELLI,  
FIELD OFFICE DIRECTOR

McNamara Federal Building  
477 Michigan Avenue  
Detroit Michigan 48226

Phone: 313-226-7900  
www.hud.gov/michigan



The storage room is stocked  
full of healthy food!

#### DETROIT TEAM NAMES

Team 1	The Helping Hands	Team 7	Food Busters
Team 2	Coon's Critters	Team 8	Soup-A-Stars
Team 3	Detroit Donators	Team 9	Food Fighters
Team 4	Top Feeders	Team 10	Hang Tough Ten
Team 5	HUD and Shoulders Above the Rest	Team 11	Fed Up
Team 6	Hunger Games-District 6	Team 12	Mission: Nutrition
		Team 13	Motown Movers

## Feds Feed Families Campaign 2015

### The Michigan Office is at it again!

Teams have been selected to once again battle for first place in a friendly competition spurred on by our fearless leader, Field Office Director, Michael Polsinelli.

The Campaign Kick-off took place on July 22nd and will continue until October 2nd with weekly weigh-ins to keep teams up to date on positioning.

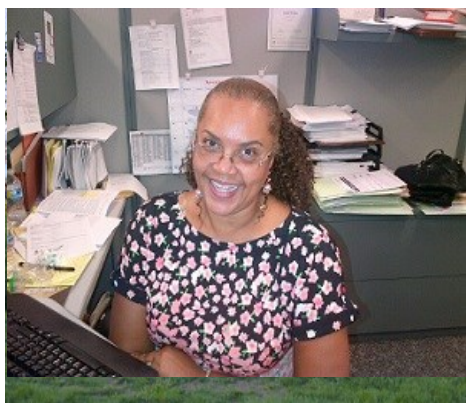
You may recall that during last year's campaign, the Detroit Field Office led the nation in pounds of food collected for the Department of Housing and Urban Development with a whopping 2,278 pounds!

This year we were looking to increase that amount to 3,000+. Well, we did that and more! The final weigh-in was done on October 2nd and our grand total for this year's campaign resulted in— GET READY NOW—

**7,548.7 lbs!!**

**BIG CONGRATS TO ALL THE TEAMS**

### *Employee Spotlight*



**VALERIE SIMS, PUBLIC HOUSING  
REVITALIZATION SPECIALIST**



- How did you first learn about HUD? I was a property owner of a 15-unit apartment complex on Beechwood and Seabaldt Ave. in Detroit from 1987—1993 and became familiar with the Section 8 Housing Program. I later followed my husband who was soldier to Ft. Riley, Kansas, where I was employed by the City of Manhattan, Kansas as the Section 8 Housing Coordinator for the city housing authority.
- What is your role at HUD? I am a Public Housing Revitalization Specialist, for the Department of Public Housing. I am a technical consultant within the field responsible for the monitoring and technical oversight of 20 PHAs in the State of Michigan.
- Before working at HUD what was the most unusual or interesting job you've ever had? I worked as a Property Book Administrator and Sports Coordinator for MWR with the US Army-Germany, what a combination!
- What are 3 words to describe HUD? Healthy, Unlimited and Developing...
- What is your favorite part about working for HUD? There is never a dull moment and it's like a box of chocolates.
- Best vacation you've been to? Saint Maarten, Netherlands
- Do you recall any embarrassing moment at work? Being asked what actress I would choose to play me.
- If Hollywood made a movie about your life, who would you like to see cast as you? Halle Berry
- If you could change one thing about working here, what would it be? I would ensure that there was a food court in the basement.
- If you could meet anyone in the world dead or alive who would it be and why? Jesus, who better to meet!
- If you had to eat one meal, every day for the rest of your life, what would it be? Fish and chips
- Tell us a little bit about your family. I have a husband, four children, and six grandchildren. The newest arrival is 3 months (Immanuel Adam Miller) AKA Yada